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Serge Obolensky, who has continued as a reserve officer in the U.S. Air Forces, came to see me on various Soviet matters, especially about what he thinks is the bad policy of giving any encouragement to the Ukrainian freedom group, and other Russian exiled elements whose programs are aimed at a fragmentation of the integrity of Russia.

I was briefed on the operations of the Foreign Buildings Office by Messrs. King and Scott.

We had quite a time today over the question of the Czechoslovak steel mill. Bill Donovan is representing Frank Ryan of World Commerce Corporation. Ryan has a deal with the Czechs whereby this steel mill, for which the United States has refused export licenses, will be bought by Ryan and other interests, and erected in Western Germany. This would result in the Czechs obtaining $10,000,000 for it--they originally paid about $17,000,000, including storage charges. As part of the deal, the Czechs would release Oatis. We met on this tonight in the Secretary's office, and were unanimously in favor of rejecting the proposition on the grounds that it would, in effect, be the payment of a ransom for Oatis' release.

The question of whether the United States should vote in the Security Council today for the inscription on the agenda of an examination into the Tunisian problem was again settled by a decision to abstain.

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